




# DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS

## NEW THERAPY DOG MANUAL

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 **DID YOU KNOW** that the new Therapy Dog Manual is now available on St. John Ambulance's InTRAnet and will be available in hardcopy through your Council in March?

Thanks to the generous financial support of Sun Life Financial, the manual provides information on setting up a Therapy Dog Program and provides some answers to the most frequently asked questions about the program.



**Tip:**  
One dog visit is approximately two hours, but a handler's hours would be longer as their volunteer time includes grooming the animal and travel time to and from the visit.

A Pre-evaluation Seminar has been developed to help introduce St. John Ambulance and the Therapy Dog Program to potential members while identifying membership expectations. All new members are expected to attend a pre-evaluation seminar before their handler/dog team is evaluated for suitability in the program. Details of the pre-evaluation seminar are included in the manual and further resource materials (e.g. lesson plans) will be forthcoming from the National Therapy Dog Coordinator, Yvonne Coveney-Boyd.

The manual also offers new members tools to deal with the various situations they may encounter during their therapy dog visits. Other resources provided include various samples and forms such as a handler's daily log for keeping a record of all visits and hours volunteered by both the handler and the dog.

For further information or inquiries about the Therapy Dog Program, contact the National Therapy Dog Coordinator at [vsup@sja.ca](mailto:vsup@sja.ca)

Dr. Cindy Adams, Phd, MSW, from the Department of Population Medicine Human and Animal Bonding at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Dr. Pamela J. Reid, Phd., Registered Animal Behaviourist join Jim Newell as consultants to the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program.



The Partnership with the Voluntary Sector Website, developed by Health Canada with input from voluntary organizations, is one of the first Government of Canada websites dedicated to the voluntary sector and will increase awareness and understanding of the role of the voluntary health sector in improving the health of Canadians.

You can visit the site directly at [www.healthcanada.ca/voluntarysector/](http://www.healthcanada.ca/voluntarysector/)

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